3189. [*Transferred to 18th March, 1993*].

Chromite bearing land in Sukinda Valley in Orissa

3190. SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that TISCO's 20 year lease of about 1261 hectares of chromite bearing land in Sukinda Valley in Orissa has expired and the renewal of the same is under the active consideration of Government;

(b) what is the estimated chromite reserves in the above mentioned area and what is the annual production need of chromite by TISCO;

(c) how much extraction of chrome ore is being done by TISCO per annum from the area and how much of it has been sold by them separately both in the domestic and international market and income accruing therefrom; and

(d) what is the earning on account of mining revenue and royalty separtely from this area ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government of Orissa have reported an estimated chromite ore reserves of 93.4 million tonnes in the Sukinda Valley chromite mine of TISCO. The details of production of chromite ore, its domestic consumption and export by the company during the last three years is as follows :—

(In '000 tonnes)

Year	Annual production	Domestic consumption	Exports
1990	388	171	124
1991	419	236	201
1992	545	322	203

According to Indian Bureau of Mines, TISCO's own requirements of chromite ore was 73,798 tonnes in 1990-91 and 1,50,693 tonnes in 1991-92.

(d) The State Government have reported the following earnings on account of mining revenue and cess from tho above mine during the last three years :—

(In Rs. lakhs)

Year	Mining revenue	Cess
1989-90	177.71	157.87
1990-91	173.63	110.14
1991-92	288.46	—

Crisis in Mica Industry

3191. SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR YADAV "RAVI" : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the mica industry in Bihar is facing crisis and a number of units engaged in this industry are on the verge of closure;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the schemes formulated and incentives being given for revival of the industry ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV) : (a) There has been a decline in the production of mica in Bihar.

(b) Technological changes, use of mica substitutes and consequent low demand are the main reasons for the problems facing the mica industry.

(c) Promotion of value added mica based products, research to identify new uses for mica products, and export promotion measures have been undertaken to help the industry.

Mineral exploration by foreign investors

3192. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that foreign investors have set terms for mineral exploration in the country;

(b) if so, the names of such investors;

(c) whether the terms and conditions set out by them have since been acceded to; and